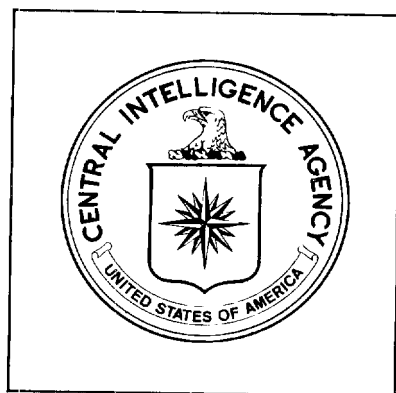


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Moscow Repeating Assurances That
It Wants To Pursue Detente

Moscow continues to offer public and private assurances that collapse of the US-Soviet trade agreement does not signal a turn from detente. At the same time, criticism of the US in Soviet news media has become more truculent.

In a conversation with a US embassy official earlier this week, L. M. Maksudov, an official in the Soviet Foreign Ministry, spoke of the USSR's great disappointment with the terms of the recent US trade legislation. He characterized the language of the legislation, especially the reference to "non-market economies," as contrary to normal international conduct.

Maksudov, head of the information division that transmits policy guidance to Soviet embassies, may have been drawing directly from the official line in contrasting the setback on trade with the rapport established between President Ford and General Secretary Brezhnev at Vladivostok.

Some resonance of this message may have appeared in Rome; the Soviet ambassador told Ambassador Volpe that the Soviet commitment to detente would remain unchanged.

The Soviets also may be enlisting their allies in the effort to reassure the US on detente. Last week, a Polish central committee member sought out a US official in Warsaw to describe as "nonsense" speculation about a return to the cold war; the Polish official said neither the Soviets nor the Poles want to turn away from detente.

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Soviet UN delegates have recently approached their British and West German counterparts to assess the reaction to Moscow's renunciation of the 1972 trade agreement. The Soviets reportedly were concerned that the West Europeans would interpret the renunciation as a change in the USSR's attitude toward detente in Europe and wanted to reassure them that it is not so.

The Soviet press continues to affirm Moscow's commitment to detente and to give heavy coverage to recent public statements by President Ford and Secretary Kissinger that detente will be continued and strengthened. The press has also resumed frequent and positive coverage of the Vladivostok arms control understandings.

Moscow's evident interest in preserving and extending the gains of its policy of improved relations with the US has nevertheless not kept it from reacting sharply in certain cases. Despite prompt US apologies for a shooting incident at the Ukrainian UN mission in New York last weekend, the official Soviet protest delivered yesterday was extremely sharp.

The note, broadcast in its entirety in the USSR, said unfulfilled US assurances of preventative action constitute "virtual connivance with criminal elements."

Critical coverage of the US remains at unusually high levels. The Soviets are concentrating their propaganda attacks on domestic economic problems, US policy in the Middle East, alleged abuses by the US intelligence community, and continued American support of South Vietnam.

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Three Soviet Officials Forecast
Decline in Trade with US

Three Soviet officials involved in trade with the US have forecast a decline in bilateral trade, but they all left open the prospect of expanded economic relations over the longer term. In separate conversations on January 21 with an embassy officer, they said the unavailability of low-interest credits rather than political considerations would cause the trade decline.

Prior to final congressional action on the trade bill, Moscow had issued similar warnings that discriminatory US legislation would drive the USSR to non-US markets.

S. B. Chetverikov of the Foreign Ministry's USA division expressed hope that Congress would eventually reverse its recent "most unfortunate action" and adopt legislation more acceptable to the USSR. He offered assurances that in the meantime the Soviets do not intend to force closure of US commercial offices in Moscow and would in fact, like to see them remain.

USA Institute economist, Yu. I. Bobrakov, observed that the absence of low-cost US credits made joint participation in Siberian mineral and energy development doubtful. He repeated the Soviet line that the troubled US economy would be adversely affected by diminished trade.

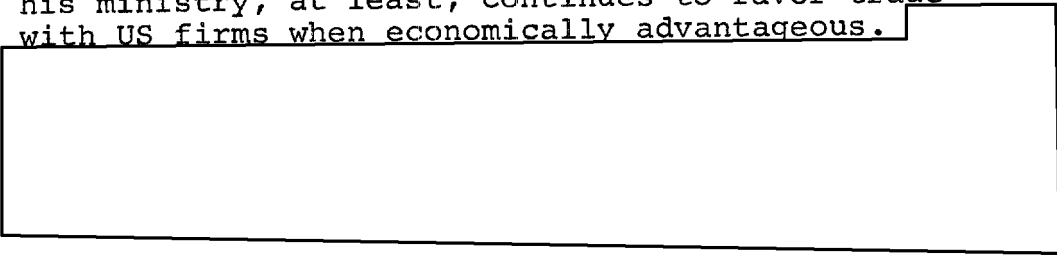
N. V. Zinovyev, a Foreign Trade Ministry official responsible for administration of trade with the Americas, said that congressional action had had a negative effect on detente at the political level and that the loss of Export-Import Bank credits would place the US at a disadvantage with other

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25X1 countries in competing for Soviet trade. Although the most negative of the three, Zinovyev added that his ministry, at least, continues to favor trade with US firms when economically advantageous.



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New Appointee Strengthens the
East German Foreign Ministry

An apparent desire to present a better diplomatic image to the West probably prompted the appointment this week of Herbert Krolikowski as first deputy foreign minister, the second ranking job in the East German Foreign Ministry.

The 50-year-old Krolikowski is one of Pankow's more experienced career diplomats. During a 21-year career, he has developed a broad-gauged outlook that the new foreign minister, Oskar Fischer, notably lacks [REDACTED] US diplomats have found Krolikowski to be a relaxed conversationalist and a professional negotiator.

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Unlike Fischer, who is an East European specialist, Krolikowski has had considerable exposure to West European affairs. He headed the Foreign Ministry's Scandinavian Department during 1958-60 and was deputy foreign minister for Western Europe from 1963 to 1969. He then served a four-year tour as ambassador to Prague before being named deputy foreign minister for East European affairs in November 1973.

Krolikowski evidently lacks the personal relationship with party boss Honecker that Fischer enjoys, but he does have solid credentials in the East German party. A younger brother, Werner, is a full member of the Politburo and holds the key economics portfolio in the Central Committee secretariat. Krolikowski, himself, has been a candidate member of the Central Committee since June 1971. Aside from Peter Florin, the GDR's permanent representative to the UN, he is the only deputy foreign minister with such status.

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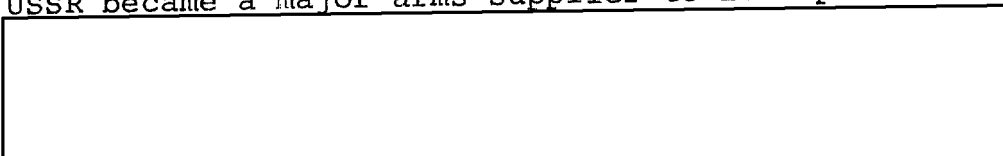
Soviets See Positive
Trends in Ethiopia

The Soviet Union appears to be a bit more optimistic in its assessment of political developments in Addis Ababa and may be seeking ways to expand its contacts and cooperation with the military government.

The Soviets, who were never able to establish close ties with the Emperor, have been careful not to get ahead of events since his overthrow. The Soviet media, however, have become increasingly positive in their treatment of developments in Addis Ababa and have given particular attention to the decisions of the Provisional Military Administrative Council to nationalize various foreign assets and to initiate social and economic reforms.

Official contacts have also perked up somewhat. The Soviet ambassador in Addis Ababa, at his own request, recently met with the chairman of the PMAC to discuss bilateral relations. Moscow has been involved in several economic aid projects over the years, and it was announced at the meeting that the Soviet Union will give additional assistance to Ethiopia's agricultural development. Earlier this month the Soviets and Ethiopians agreed to renew their cultural exchange program, which includes the training of Ethiopian students in the USSR.

Because of the acute antagonism between Ethiopia and Somalia, it is doubtful that Moscow would offer Addis Ababa any significant aid--especially military aid. A Soviet diplomat recently said that it would be impossible for the Soviets to maintain a good relationship with Somalia if the USSR became a major arms supplier to Ethiopia.



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